

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A distributed digital television system comprising:
_____ a plurality of discrete television sets; and means
_____ for decoding digital television signals for display at the television sets,
characterised in that the said means for decoding comprises a respective plurality of
respective distributed signal decoding arrangements having respective cryptographic
engines configured for executing conditional access, said system being configured and
further includes means for transferring, over a network linking the plural sets and from a
source from among said arrangements to a destination from among said arrangements, a
decryption key usable for conditional access by the respective cryptographic engine of
the destination arrangement~~decoding authorization data over a network linking the said~~
~~plurality of television sets in the system and from a digital decoding arrangement~~
~~associated with one television set to a digital decoding arrangement associated with~~
~~another television set.~~

2. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said network comprises
a television signal distribution network for delivering digital television signals to the
television sets.

3. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said network
includes filters and is formed by a radio frequency feeder cables mutually arranged to
selectively route keys transferred in said transferring and said signal of the distribution
system.

4. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, configured for performing
said transferring and arranged such that the decoding authorization data is arranged to be

~~transferred between the television sets~~ under a separate cryptographic layer of security.

5. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each television set includes an arrangement of said distributed signal decoding arrangements~~a respective digital decoding arrangement.~~

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A local digital~~Digital~~ television apparatus including a digital signal decoding arrangement for receiving coded digital television signals and including a conditional access module configured and means for the input and output of ~~decoding authorization data~~decryption keys serving to control the decoding of the digital television signal either locally within the apparatus by means of said input or remotely at further digital television apparatus by means of said output.

9. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus as claimed in claim 8~~Digital television apparatus including a digital signal decoding arrangement for receiving coded digital television signals and means for the input and output of decoding authorization data serving to control the decoding of the digital television signal either locally within the apparatus or remotely at further digital television apparatus, and comprising a paired television set and digital decoding arrangement including demultiplexing means for splitting decoding authorization data from a received digital television signal.

10. (currently amended) A method of controlling the distribution of digital

television signals within a digital television system comprising a plurality of discrete television sets, said method comprising:

_____ including the steps of decoding the digital television signals for display at the television sets and characterized by the steps of decoding incoming television signals locally at each television set; and

_____ distributing decoding authorization data between the plural television sets;

_____ wherein the distributing comprises transferring within the system such that decoding authorization data a decryption key from a conditional access module of a digital decoding arrangement associated with one television set ~~can be transferred for~~ operation in association with a conditional access module of a digital decoding arrangement associated with another television set.

11. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein said transferring of the decryption key transfers from a smart card of said source arrangement to a smart card of said destination arrangement.

12. (new) The system of claim 11, wherein said smart card includes key management hardware configured for communicating with a radio frequency local area network established between ones of said sets.

13. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality includes at least three sets having said respective distributed signal decoding arrangements, said system being further configured for said transferring from any one to any other of the at least three respective arrangements.

14. (new) The system of claim 1, further configured so that said transferring restricts display, at said source, of specific broadcasted content whose display said transferring authorizes at said destination.

15. (new) The system of claim 14, wherein said plurality includes at least three sets having said respective distributed signal decoding arrangements, said system being further configured for said transferring from any one to any other of the at least three respective arrangements with the associated display restrictions and authorizations.

16. (new) The local apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a paired television set and digital decoding arrangement, said arrangement including a cryptographic engine, and further including both a demultiplexer for splitting decoding authorization data from a received digital television signal to yield a remaining signal and a second demultiplexer for dividing said remaining signal into separate signals for inputting into said cryptographic engine.

17. (new) The local apparatus of claim 8, configured so that inputting locally authorizes display, at the apparatus, of specific broadcasted content, said inputting serving to input a decryption key outputted from said further apparatus, the outputting restricting display of said content at said further apparatus.

18. (new) A television system including the local apparatus and further apparatus of claim 8.

19. (new) The system of claim 18, configured so that inputting locally authorizes display, at the apparatus, of specific broadcasted content, said inputting serving to input a

decryption key outputted from said further apparatus, the outputting restricting display of said content at said further apparatus, said system being further configured conversely such that inputting a decryption key into said further apparatus authorizes display, at said further apparatus, of specific broadcasted content but restricts display of said content at said local apparatus which has supplied said decryption key.

20. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein said transferring of the decryption key transfers from a smart card of said source arrangement to a smart card of said destination arrangement.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein said smart card includes key management hardware configured for communicating with a radio frequency local area network established between ones of said sets.

22. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein said plurality includes at least three sets having said respective distributed signal decoding arrangements, said system being further configured for said transferring from any one to any other of the at least three respective arrangements.